



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,482	06/27/2003	Dennis Ronald Gravolin	7260-1	4968

7590 08/16/2004
SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP
3000 South Eads Street
Arlington, VA 22202

EXAMINER

LUEBKE, RENEE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/607,482	Applicant(s) GRAVOLIN	
	Examiner Renee S. Luebke	Art Unit 2833	<i>RL</i>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Art Unit: 2833

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- The nationality of the patent on page 1, line 7 should be indicated.
- On line 17 of page 1, it appears that “of” should be –to–.
- In each of the brief figure descriptions, “Shows” should not be in lower case. There are other words throughout the specification that also should not be capitalized.
 - The section heading on line 1 of page 5 should be **Detailed Description of the Invention**. Other section headings are also improper.
 - The specification (page 5, line 3) makes reference to “the patented design” but does not define or identify this structure.
 - Most of the sentences in the “Description of the Drawings” section are missing periods and many appear to be missing text, as well.
 - It is unclear how a portion of a circuit diagram can show the “capability of something, as suggested on lines 9+ of page 5.
 - Reference numeral 66 is used to indicate both a resistor and earth.
 - Parts of the structure should only be indicated by a unique reference numeral. Therefore, descriptions such as “switches 40-44 and A5” are improper. In addition, it is preferable to use reference **numerals**.
 - On line 25 of page 5, it appears that “38-34” should be -40-44-.
 - The sentence on lines 5-6 of page 6 appears to be missing text.
 - Why does it take 10 connections to replace five connections as suggested on lines 19-21 of page 6?
 - Reference numeral A67 adjacent fig. 5 needs a line.
 - Contrary to lines 22-24 of page 6, module A70 is not seen to fit “into” the connectors; it appears to connect to them.
 - Reference numerals should not be used in the written disclosure as the sole identification of an item since there is no way to correlate that item with a

Art Unit: 2833

claimed feature. Parts should have names; the reference numerals should merely be used to identify those parts in the figures.

- The phrase “pin out” (age 6, line 27, etc.) is unknown.
- The sentences on lines 13-18 of page 7 appear to be missing text.
- Many of the numerals in the last paragraph of page 7 appear to be erroneous.
- The specification does not clearly describe the arrangement or structure of the inventive device.

Applicant is kindly requested to proofread the application. Appropriate corrections are required.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. The spelling of molded (claim 1, line 4), and other terms throughout the application, should be the American version.

b. As noted above, the module of the present invention does not appear to be fit “into said connector,” or “housed in the connector” as required by lines 5 and 12-13, respectively, of claim 1.

c. Claim 1 lacks antecedent basis for “the existing connections” on line 7; “the wiring” and “the vehicle harness” on line 10; “the normal operation” on line 13; and “its housed circuit connection” on lines 14-15.

d. Reference to the “existing” connections “normal” operation is indefinite because the limits of the “existing” device are not set forth in the claim.

e. The term “type” renders the claims indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by the “type”), thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable.

Art Unit: 2833

f. To what does "by its connections changes" on line 14 of claim 1 refer?

g. How does the addition of the module change the operation of the existing trailer connector? It appears that the module adds its own operation, but does not change the members that it is attached to.

h. On line 2 of claim 2, it appears that -is- should be inserted after "monitor."

i. On line 2 of claim 3, it appears that "a" should be deleted.

j. The use of the phrase "additional resistors" in claim 4 is unclear since there are no other resistors mentioned in the claim.

k. There are numerous grammatical and typographic errors throughout the claims.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The structure and arrangement of the system is not clearly defined. For example, claim 1 and parts of the disclosure indicate that the main control unit "forms part of an existing" connector. Yet from the figures, it appears that the assembly includes adding an adapter-type unit (Figs. 9 and 30, for example) to an existing member.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The module 33 of Borland, et al. appears to be similar in function and structure to that of the present invention. The module of Gee, et al. connects between a tractor and a trailer in the same manner as the present invention. The adapter of Tibbits uses screw type connections.

Art Unit: 2833

5. Any response to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

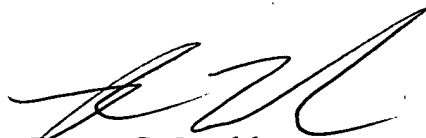
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke whose telephone number is (571) 272-2009.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (571) 272-2800, extension 33.



Renee S. Luebke
Primary Patent Examiner
August 12, 2004